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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 3, 4, 7-11, 13, 14 and 17-20 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, Applicants amend claims 1, 3, 11 and 13, and cancel claims 2, 5, 6, 12, 15 and 16.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 12, 13, 15 and 16 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants have amended claims 1 and 11 to include all of the features recited in allowable claims 2 and 12, respectively.

Claims 1, 4, 7-9, 11, 14, and 17-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Glockler et al. (U.S. 6,400,963) in view of Chorey et al. (U.S. 6,154,664). Claims 10 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Glockler et al. in view of Brandt (U.S. 6,332,071).

As noted above Applicants have amended claims 1 and 11 to include all of the features recited in allowable claims 2 and 12, respectively.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Glockler et al. in view of Chorey et al.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 11 are allowable. Claims 3, 4, 7-10, 13, 14 and 17-20 depend upon claims 1 and 11, and are therefore allowable for at least the reasons that claims 1 and 11 are allowable.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are solicited.

To the extent necessary, Applicant petitions the Commissioner for a Two-month extension of time, extending to March 22, 2005, the period for response to the Office Action dated October 22, 2004.

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The Commissioner is authorized to charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1353.

Respectfully submitted,

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